Summer Job Search Helpful Hints

The bottom line is that finding a job, even a summer job, takes planning, effort, and determination. And while looking for a job in the classified ads may work for a small number of teens, here are better alternative ways to find work.

Always avoided your parent's friends? Now's the time to get to know them better! Networking or just talking with as many adults (family, friends, neighbors, etc.) as you can is best way to find a job, any job.

You thought school was over? Think again. Now is the time to learn all you need about job-hunting because it's going to be harder than ever before to get a job. Conduct research on the Internet, the local library, even your area Department of Labor.

How's your spelling and grammar? Better brush up! Take the time to prepare or update your resume, you'll need it when you go on job interviews. Your resume and reference list should be sharp and easy to read. Spelling and grammar errors can distract the reader from what you really want them to focus on, you!

Put away those short skirts and baggy pants. When you talk with potential employers, you need to dress your best and look professional, not like you're going on a date or lounging around the house. Research how to dress for success. Talk with your teachers or counselors and ask for guidance.

Turn off the television or video games and hit the street. A good way to look for summer jobs is going to the human resources department or manager of as many stores and offices in your town. Dress professionally and bring lots of copies of your resume. Be prepared to spend time completing applications and answering questions.

Job competition is tough. Teens are being squeezed out of traditional jobs this summer as more experienced workers are forced to take whatever jobs they can find. If you love the outdoors, you may have better luck. As summer tourism picks up, there will be jobs in water parks, camps, parks and other hospitality-related companies and organizations.

Love the Net? Then use it -- to a point. There are a number of teen summer job and camp sites, but don't make this method your sole method of job-hunting. You still need to visit businesses and companies to complete applications and get your name out there.

No matter how bad it gets, keep smiling. Studies show employers look for these things in teens: enthusiasm, positive attitude, hard-working, friendliness, appropriate appearance and being on-time.

Good luck with your job search!